



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE RENEWAL OF ATLANTIC TUNAS LONGLINE PERMITS, AND ATLANTIC SHARK IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published a final rule modifying the regulations governing the renewal of Atlantic tunas longline limited access permits (LAPs) and Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop attendance requirements. These changes will become effective on **August 4, 2008**.

Beginning on August 4, 2008, Atlantic tunas longline LAPs that have been expired for more than one year will be allowed to be renewed by the most recent permit holder of record, provided that the applicant has been issued a swordfish LAP (other than handgear) and a shark LAP, and all other requirements for permit renewal are met. This action does not amend the portion of the current regulations which specifies that only persons holding non-expired swordfish and shark LAPs in the preceding year are eligible to renew those permits. Also, the requirement to possess swordfish and shark LAPs in order to obtain an Atlantic tunas LAP will remain in effect.

Persons wanting to renew an Atlantic tunas longline LAP that has been expired for more than one year should first contact the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) office in Gloucester, MA by calling (978) 281-9260.

The final rule also modifies Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop attendance requirements for businesses issued Atlantic shark dealer permits that have more than one dealer location listed on their permit. Beginning on August 4, 2008, shark dealers renewing their permit must submit an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate (dealer or proxy) for each place of business where Atlantic sharks are first received, rather than from each location listed on their Atlantic shark dealer permit. Similarly, shark dealers must possess, and make available for inspection, a workshop certificate for each place of business where Atlantic sharks are first received. Finally, extensions of a dealer's business, such as trucks, will be required to possess a copy of a valid dealer or proxy certificate issued to a place of business covered by the dealer permit.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information or a copy of the final rule, please contact Rick Pearson, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, at 727-824-5399.

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for Alan Rosenhoover, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUL 03 2008

Date

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